

the toroidal *suitable*
B1 --Referring to FIG. 2, the toroidal rings 62 are made from a suitable material, such as, but not limited to polyurethane. While toroid shaped rings with circular cross sections have been shown and described, the present invention is not limited in this regard as other cross-sectional shapes, such as square, can be employed without departing from the broader aspect of the present invention.--

Please add on page 6, the paragraph beginning on line 16:

B2 --In the cases such as where a circular and square cross section are rotated about an axis to form a toroid, the inner most point of the cross-section, the point closest to the axis of rotation of the toroid, is on a line drawn perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the toroid through the geometric center of the cross-section. Toroidal shapes having the limitation that inner most point of the cross section is on a line drawn perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the toroid through the geometric center of the cross-section are defined herein as special toroidal shapes.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- Sub C3
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1. (Amended) A bearing pad assembly comprising:
- a first housing having an exterior surface and defining a bore extending at least part-way through said first housing;
 - a first load bearing member coupled to said first housing, and defining an outwardly facing first abutment surface;
 - a second housing defining a bore of a shape similar to said exterior surface of said first housing and adapted to slideably receive said first housing therein;
 - a second load bearing member coupled to said second housing and defining an outwardly facing second abutment surface opposite to said first abutment surface; and
 - biasing means being of a special toroidal shape for urging said first and second load bearing members away from one another in response to a load being imposed upon at least one of said first and second abutment surfaces.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

B4 Sub 7. (Amended) The assembly of claim 4 wherein the solid resilient material is in the form of a toroidal ring having a circular cross-section.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

B5 Sub 10. (Twice Amended) The assembly of claim 16 wherein the slip lining has a coefficient of static friction less than that of the first housing.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Twice Amended) The assembly of claim 16 wherein the slip lining is attached to the first housing exterior surface.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (Twice Amended) The assembly of claim 16 wherein a second slip lining is attached to the second housing bore wall.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Twice Amended) The assembly of claim 16 wherein the slip lining is made substantially of an organic polymer.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

B6 Sub 15. (Twice Amended) A bearing pad assembly comprising:
a first housing having a bore extending through said first housing;
a first load bearing member coupled to said first housing and defining an abutment surface opposite to said first housing;

housing having second
a second housing having a bore extending through said second housing, adapted to telescopically receive said first housing;

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a second load bearing member coupled to said second housing and defining an abutment surface opposite to said second housing; and

at least one spring in the shape of a special toroidal shape ring positioned within said first housing bore, for urging said first and second abutment surfaces away from each other in response to a load imposed on at least one of said abutment surfaces.

Please add claim 16 as follows:

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16. The assembly of claim 1 further comprising at least one slip lining positioned between said first housing exterior surface and a bore wall defining said second housing bore.